**From:** shual2427@gmail.com on behalf of Koller-Fox
**To:** Simmons, Denise
**Cc:** McGovern, Marc
**Subject:** April 23th vote on Hewlett Packard
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 5:31:25 PM

---

Rabbi Cherie Koller-Fox
Rabbi Emerita,
Congregation Eitz Chayim
Cambridge, MA.

Dear Councilwoman Simmons,

I remember you and the fine work you always do for the City of Cambridge from the 25 years that I served as Rabbi at Congregation Eitz Chayim on Magazine Street. We were honored to have you join us for discussions and ritual events in our community.

I am writing today to voice my concern about the upcoming vote on Hewlett-Packard. I am not speaking for the Eitz Chayim Congregation or for Jews in Cambridge but expressing my own views based on my love and concern for the Cambridge community which we share.

I am someone who supports a two- state solution to the Palestinian /Israeli conflict. I am very troubled by recent events in Israel led in great part by a government I don't agree with and encouraged by a government in this country that I don't agree with.

Still, I am troubled by the Cambridge City Council voting on a way to express its unhappiness with the current situation by joining what is essentially a boycott of Israel. It feels to me that Israel is being singled out unfairly from among a shopping list of nations who are engaged in human rights violations. Israel is a democracy that offers full rights to its citizens including its Arab citizens, its women and members of the LGBQT communities. While I do not agree with many of its policies toward Palestinians, extreme members of that group do pose a real security risk to Israeli citizens. In this complicated situation, each side has made terrible mistakes in dealing with the other and I for one pray for peace and security for every Palestinian and Jewish child every day.

I see too that the vote here includes more than Israel but also concerns about immigrants and incarcerations. It seems like quite a mishmash of topics and makes it even harder to understand how withdrawing from one company can have a real impact on so many diverse and important issues.

If you do want to pursue this path, you deserve to have a full, fair and public hearing so that all the facts become clear. I know that those who advocate for the boycott are well organized and have significant resources behind them, but there is more to the facts than what they say.

I belong to many organizations that are working for peace and none support the BDS movement because it does nothing to move toward peace. I can't talk about the other issues, but I would welcome the City Council, who has taken many courageous stands in the past, to take this opportunity to learn more about this issue before moving forward.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Best wishes,

*Rabbi Cherie*

Rabbi Cherie Koller-Fox